

The Library of Congress'

EARLY STATE RECORDS PROJECT

converted from the original microfilm held by the
Vincent C. Immel Law Library, Saint Louis University

through the generous support of a grant from the

Council on Library and Information Resources

Mississippi State Board of Immigration and Agriculture reports

reformatted from the original and including:

Biennial report of the State Board of Immigration and Agriculture to the Legislature of Mississippi, <years 1878--'79>

Biennial report of the Commissioner of Immigration & Agriculture ... years 1880-'81-
<years 1884-'85>

Report of Commissioner of Immigration and Agriculture, 1888 and 1889

Commissioner of Immigration.

BIENNIAL REPORT

OF THE

COMMISSIONER

OF

IMMIGRATION & AGRICULTURE,

OF THE

STATE OF MISSISSIPPI,

FOR THE YEARS 1880-'81.

PRINTED BY AUTHORITY.

JACKSON, MISS.:

J. L. POWER STATE PRINTER.

1882.



BIENNIAL REPORT

OF THE

COMMISSIONER OF IMMIGRATION & AGRICULTURE

FOR THE YEARS 1880, 1881.

To His Excellency, Governor J. M. Stone:

SIR—As President of the Board, and Commissioner of Immigration and Agriculture, I have the honor to submit the following report:

LEGISLATION.

The Legislature of 1880 failed to make an appropriation for the work of the Board of Immigration and Agriculture. With the exception of \$1000 per annum for the salary of the Commissioner, no money was appropriated. I had, therefore, to limit my efforts to correspondence and the distribution of such papers, pamphlets, maps and circulars as were on hand in my office. The correspondence has been very large, having received and answered something over three thousand letters in the past two years. I may now safely say that the State of Mississippi is better and more favorably known abroad than at any former period of her existence.

WHO AIDED IN THE CORRESPONDENCE.

In this work I was kindly assisted by the Rev. J. J. Miller, of Winston county, Miss., a Lutheran minister and a German, who conducted a large correspondence with his countrymen in the United States and in Germany. He also distributed a considerable number of pamphlets to his correspondents.

Mr. Just Mulert, an enterprising and well educated German gentleman of Meridian, Mississippi, volunteered his services, and for nearly a year has been writing to his friends in Germany,

setting forth the advantages of Mississippi as a country for German emigrants to find homes. He also kindly translated into the German such articles and statistics as were furnished from this office, and had them published in German and Austrian papers.

Capt. Geo. P. McLean, of Claiborne county, who for some time has been located at Mt. Oreb, Ohio, kindly distributed a large number of pamphlets and papers for this office. I take this method to publicly thank these gentlemen for their assistance, who, without money and without price, devoted their time and talents for the interest of the State. That this correspondence and distribution of information has done good, the letters I am daily receiving fully testify.

THE KIND OF INFORMATION SENT ABROAD.

The kind of information sent abroad from this office is such as is contained in a paper entitled "Mississippi Homes," a pamphlet of 200 pages, called the "Resources, Condition and Wants of Mississippi," 5000 copies of which have been distributed, and facts and figures taken from the United States Census of 1870 and 1880. These statistics, taken from the U. S. Census, I beg leave to make a part of this report :

AREA OF THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI.

The area of Mississippi is 47,156 square miles, or 30,179,840 acres, divided into farms as follows :

Year.	No. of Farms.	No. of Acres.	In Cultivation.	Av. Size of Farms
1860.	42,840	15,840,000	5,065,000	370
1870.	68,023	13,129,000	4,209,000	193
1880.	75,205	13,813,000	4,895,000	185

It will be seen from the above table that, in 1860, 5,065,000 acres of land were under cultivation, and in 1880 4,895,000 acres, or nearly as much as in 1860, which shows that the farmers of our State are gradually recovering from the disasters of a four years' war.

THE POPULATION OF MISSISSIPPI.

The population of the State, from the U. S. Census of 1870, was 827,922, and the U. S. Census Returns of 1880, gives us a population of 1,131,592—an increase of 303,670 in ten years, or about 37 per cent. These stubborn facts and figures ought to set at rest, and forever, the charges so extensively circulated, viz : "that the white people oppress and endeavor to exterminate the black people." I allude to these facts, not for any political purpose, but to correct errors and misstatements that are proving of incalculable injury to the cause of immigration and to the prosperity of the State.

AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS OF MISSISSIPPI.

	United States Census 1870.	1880.
Value of live stock of all kinds,	\$29,940,000	\$35,793,000
Corn, bushels.....	15,658,000	21,375,000
Oats, bushels.....	414,000	1,959,620
Cotton, bales.....	564,000	955,808

Mississippi still keeps the first place in cotton production, having made in 1879-80 955,808 bales, whilst the second place is given to Texas with her 808,000 bales, or a difference in favor of Mississippi of 147,800 bales. Of this immense cotton crop the white people made 323,600 bales, or a little more than one-third of the total crop, which proves that the whites can and do labor in our climate—a fact that seems to be doubted outside of our State.

MANUFACTURES IN MISSISSIPPI.

	1870.	1880.
Number of manufactures.....	1,731	2,331
Number of hands employed.....	5,941	7,845
Capital invested.....	\$4,501,714	\$6,725,520
Wages paid....	4,547,428	6,274,630
Value of productions.....	8,154,758	12,352,375

The principal articles manufactured are lumber, cotton and woolen goods, cotton yarns, cotton-seed oil, agricultural implements, wagons, bricks and machinery. The facilities for water and steam power in the various parts of the State are great, and are advantageously distributed. Many capitalists from the North and England are alive to these great advantages, and are now and have been prospecting to find favorable locations. In the next ten years, from 1880 to 1890, I am confident the value of our manufactured productions will be more than doubled, or, say, \$25,000,000 instead of \$12,000,000 in 1880. It is evident to any candid mind, in view of these facts, that Mississippi is making great progress in manufactures.

EDUCATION IN MISSISSIPPI.

Many are deterred from purchasing homes and settling in our State, from the impression that has gone abroad that our people pay little or no attention to education. Let the facts, taken from the U. S. Census, speak for themselves. In 1870 there were 1564 free schools; in 1880 there were 5024 free schools and 969 private schools. In addition, for advanced students:

The University of Mississippi, at Oxford, for white students;
The A. & M. College, at Starkville, for white students;
The Alcorn University and A. & M. College, for colored students, in Claiborne county, Miss.;

The Normal School, for colored students, at Holly Springs, Miss.;
 The Shaw University, for colored students, at Holly Springs,
 Miss.;
 The Tougaloo University, for colored students, at Tougaloo,
 Hinds county, Miss.

I mention only the above, as they are in part or in whole receiving State aid. We have excellent Colleges at Brookhaven, Clinton, Daleville, Meridian, Natchez, etc., and good high schools in nearly every city, town and village in the State.

Now with these facts before us, and when we take into consideration that nine-tenths of the money necessary to conduct the free schools is derived from taxes levied upon the white people, I affirm, without the fear of contradiction, that no people on the face of the earth, according to their means, are doing more to educate and elevate the ignorant classes than the people of Mississippi.

CLIMATE AND LANDS OF MISSISSIPPI.

The territory of Mississippi extends north from the Gulf of Mexico about five degrees of latitude to the Tennessee line. The summers are long and warm, but rarely reach the extreme heat felt in the Northern and Northwestern States. The evenings and nights are pleasantly cool, in consequence of the never-failing breezes from the Gulf. The winters are short and mild, ice seldom forms more than an inch in thickness in the extreme northern portion of the State, and in the southern part killing frosts rarely occur. The climate is the happy medium, where the products of the North and South meet, grow and mature in harmony. No country is more regularly or better irrigated by rain-falls than our State, as will be seen by the following table, taken from the U. S. Census :

RAINFALL IN THE DIFFERENT STATES PER ANNUM.

In Kansas,	}	From 20 to 32 inches a year.
In Texas,		
In Indian Territory,		
Maine,	}	From 32 to 44 inches a year.
New York,		
Virginia,		
Ohio,		
Indiana,		
Illinois,	}	From 44 to 56 inches a year.
Tennessee,		
Kentucky,		
North half of Mississippi,		
South half of Mississippi,	}	56 inches a year.
Louisiana,		

The lands of the State are generally fertile, well watered and

finely timbered. In the southern portion are vast forests of yellow or long-leaved pine of great commercial value. In the Mississippi and other river bottoms will be found large bodies of cypress, white, red and other oaks, hickory, gum, black walnut and other timber trees, which will be made very valuable by railroads now under construction. The up-lands of the State are varied by hills, valleys, plains, creek and river bottoms and prairies. The alluvial lands of the Mississippi, Yazoo and many other river bottoms are very rich, and where protected by levees and reclaimed by drainage will produce enormous crops of cotton and corn.

In the last two years about 1,200,000 acres of the levee, swamp and overflowed State lands have been sold by the Levee Board and the State Commissioner of Lands. Most of these lands were purchased by parties from beyond the limits of our State.

During the same time the Register of the U. S. Land Office, at Jackson, Miss., has sold and homesteaded about a half million of acres of land. These facts prove conclusively that capitalists have confidence in our State Government and in the improvement and prosperity of our State.

THE MONEY VALUE OF IMMIGRATION.

The money value of the immigration that is now flowing into the United States from Europe, is ably and graphically set forth by the New York Graphic of the 10th of May, 1881, as follows:

“We have become so accustomed to reading every day that so many thousand immigrants arrived at the port of New York yesterday, that the majority of us fail to comprehend the entire magnitude and meaning of this immense accession to our population. For instance, yesterday there arrived at Castle Garden 6520 emigrants. If we divide these into families of five persons each—a fair estimate—we have 1304 families. If only one-half of them go West and South and enter upon agricultural life (we have reason to believe this is an underestimate), here we have occupants for 652 farms of 160 acres each, or 104,320 acres, in all equivalent to 163 square miles of territory. Just think of this as the result of a single day! Then consider that this vast emigration is going on continually, and ever increasing; that the last year it amounted to 573,703 souls at all the ports in the United States, and in all probability this year, 1881, will witness the arrival of not less than 750,000 newcomers. By the same rule of computation used above, and taking one-half the emigrants as farmers, dividing them into families of five each, we would have 90,000 families, capable of taking up 90,000 farms of 160 acres each, a total of 14,400,000 acres of land, or about 21,560 square miles. All accounts agree in the statement that the great majority of the emigrants now arriving, come with considerable money. The old average of \$60 per capita is now found far below the mark—the figure \$100 for each person is thought to be even

too low; but taking this figure, the emigration of this year will represent a cash importation of \$7,500,000, a vast sum, but still a mere bagatelle when compared with the more valuable qualities of brain, muscle and industry of our newcomers."

WHAT MISSOURI AND TEXAS HAVE DONE.

Of all the former slave-holding States, Missouri and Texas are taking the lead in the cause of immigration, and are receiving a large share of the most valuable emigrants arriving from Europe. The question naturally arises in every thinking mind, why are Missouri and Texas so far in advance of the other Southern States? The answer is as plain as the existence of the fact.

Missouri has organized a vast immigration society at St. Louis, composed of leading and best citizens, which is connected with similar societies in nearly every county throughout the State. The Legislature has liberally aided the cause by large appropriations. Her citizens have turned their attention to manufacturing enterprises, railroad building, the development of mineral resources, stock-raising and diversified farming. All these advantages and resources are published to the world in English, German and other European languages. She has her agents in New York city and Europe, distributing maps, papers and pamphlets to those who desire information. These agents are furnished with tickets on all the through lines of transportation, and when an emigrant is secured they sell him a ticket at reduced rates through to his destination. The efforts of Missouri have been crowned with success, for she has added in the last ten years 53 per cent. to her population.

Texas is doing all of this, and even more; besides, her railroads have large land grants, and each of these have agents in New York, New Orleans and Europe, soliciting immigration. Every man, woman and child from the Lone Star State makes it his or her duty to talk about their State—on the railroads, on the steamboats, at the hotels, and, in fact, everywhere they go; thus every Texan is an immigration agent, and takes pride in representing his State in that capacity. I ask the simple question: How many Mississippians take the trouble to make the vast resources of their State known outside of its limits?

This enterprising and progressive policy pursued by Texas has doubled her population in ten years. Like efforts will produce like results. If Mississippi, with equal if not superior advantages, will follow the example of Missouri and Texas in the next decade, she will, by natural increase and immigration, add largely to her population.

LABOR IN MISSISSIPPI.

All who have taken the trouble to look into this question of labor in our State, will find that the colored laborers are gradu-

ally moving off from the hill country to the bottom lands of the Yazoo and Mississippi rivers. This depletion of labor in the hill country will have to be supplied by white labor, which will not for the present venture into the bottoms. To obtain good and industrious white laborers, it will be necessary to have reliable agents, paid by the State and responsible to the State, at New York, New Orleans and in Europe. This is necessary to keep from having thrust upon us the paupers and scum of the cities and towns of the North and of foreign countries. Immigration was most effectually killed in our State some years ago, *by the class and character of people forwarded at so much per head.* These agents worked for numbers, and not for reliable and industrious laborers and farmers.

From circulars sent out from this office, and the best information I can obtain, there have been between 10,000 to 11,000 colored laborers, introduced into the State in the past four years, mostly by planters in the Mississippi bottom. This has more than equalled the exodus to Kansas and other Northern States. In my opinion there will never be much difficulty in securing colored labor to cultivate the rich alluvial lands of the bottoms. The most important question to the prosperity of the State is, shall our hill lands be abandoned or not? The best plan is to settle them up with good and reliable small farmers, who will devote their lands to diversified husbandry. This kind of immigration has at last turned towards our State, and in the past four years about 1350 white families have purchased lands and settled in Mississippi. But for the yellow fever epidemic in the summer and fall of 1878, ten times the above number would now have homes in our State.

TRANSPORTATION.

At my earnest solicitation all the railroads in the State have reduced their rates of transportation for actual settlers moving into Mississippi to *one and a half cents per mile.* There will not be the least difficulty in making arrangements with the steamship lines from Europe to the ports of New Orleans, La., or New York, for emigrants coming to this State; the only trouble in the way is to secure the emigrant, and to know he is the kind we want.

WHAT MUST BE DONE FOR MISSISSIPPI.

Under this head I will simply quote the words of Col. R. O. Reynolds, of Aberdeen, Senator from the Twenty-fourth District—"thoughts that breathe and words that burn." Col. Reynolds said in his address to the editors at the Press Convention, in June, 1881:

"The trust which your profession confides to your keeping is no ordinary one; the destiny of Mississippi in part is in your

charge—her material as well as her moral interests. Her civilization demands your watchful care. Her gullied hillsides, her unditched valleys, her half-tilled fields and her virgin forests claim restoration and development from your pens. Her fleecy staple, now spun by Northern spindles and woven by Northern looms, asks that its tribute of wealth be bestowed upon its rightful possessors, the people over whom it rules a tyrant king. Her railways, through which a sluggish commerce now flows, beg for combination and extension until the swelling tide of prosperity shall inundate the State.

“How this development can best be effected I shall not elaborate, but shall content myself with a few suggestions. We have accepted as conclusive that we must diversify our crops; that we must produce what we consume; that we must change our modes of cultivation; must improve our labor and supplement labor with machinery; that we must *abolish our pernicious credit system of liens and mortgages*; that we need *immigration and money*; that we must encourage manufactories, build railroads and educate our people. What we need now is action—aggressive action. We want bold, decisive and energetic action upon the part of our people and of our men in public station, and that *they will dare to do something* for the prosperity of Mississippi.”

WHAT THE RAILROADS ARE DOING FOR MISSISSIPPI.

The Mobile and Ohio Railroad, in the fall of 1878, appointed Col. M. B. Hillyard agent to secure immigration to settle along the line of that road. Col. Hillyard has been doing good work, and has introduced into the State many farmers from the North and West, who have purchased land and made their homes in Mississippi. This road still owns 700,000 acres of land in the State, and is making efforts to sell and settle them with good and industrious farmers.

The Vicksburg and Meridian Railroad is now the property of the Erlanger Syndicate, and will cheerfully co-operate in the cause of immigration. This road has for sale some 250,000 acres of land in this State, and it is the interest of the Company to settle farmers upon them, so as to build up a large local travel and trade.

The Chicago, St. Louis and New Orleans Railway was the first road to reduce the regular passenger fare to three cents per mile, and the emigrant rates to *one and one-half cents per mile*. The General Manager of this road intends this year to put an immigration agent in the field, to work for the interest of this great through line.

The Louisville, Nashville and New Orleans line is making every effort to build up the Gulf Coast towns and counties in our State, by extending low excursion rates, and by opening up health resorts, both for summer and winter visitors.

The Erlanger Syndicate has placed under contract the greater portion of the line from Meridian, Miss., to New Orleans, La.

This line runs diagonally through the southern portion of our State, opening up the vast pine forests of that region to the trade of the world. In the next ten years this Syndicate alone will expend between \$4,000,000 and \$5,000,000 for the necessary work in building the road within the limits of our State.

The Vicksburg and Ship Island railway, now running to within a few miles of Port Gibson, Claiborne county, furnishes transportation to a productive country, and will, when completed, open up a fine section of our State.

The Vicksburg and Memphis line will run directly through the centre of the finest cotton lands in the world, and will open up to commerce vast forests of magnificent timber of various kinds. The whole bottom between the Yazoo and Mississippi rivers is rich and productive.

The Natchez, Jackson and Columbus, narrow-gauge, railroad, it is thought, will be finished to Jackson, Miss., by June, 1882. This road runs through a fine farming and stock-raising region, and will afford facilities for transportation and open up to the world some of the best lands in our State. When it reaches Jackson, Miss., it is expected to be pushed on to Columbus, Miss., and will afford transportation to a large and valuable section of the State, now entirely cut off from railroad facilities.

The Greenville and Birmingham railroad is now completed from Greenville, in Washington county, Miss., to Johnsonville, in Sunflower county, Miss., affording railroad transportation for a large area of the best alluvial lands in the Mississippi bottom.

The Georgia Pacific (known as the Gordon System Railroad), is building a trunk line from Atlanta, Georgia, via Birmingham, Ala., Columbus and Aberdeen, Miss., to a point on the Mississippi river, either at Greenville, or near that enterprising town, expecting to connect with the Texas system of railroads at some point in Arkansas. In our State this road will run through a large section of fine country heretofore destitute of railroad transportation.

The Memphis, Holly Springs and Aberdeen line has been again revived, and will be connected with the trunk line of the Erlanger Syndicate at some point in Alabama. This road will open up and afford railroad facilities to a fine region of country in the northern portion of our State.

The Ripley railroad, narrow gauge, now in operation from Middleton, on the Memphis and Charleston railroad, to Ripley, in Tippah county, Miss., ought, and it is thought will be extended through the center of the State south to the Gulf of Mexico, thus affording transportation and developing a large portion of the State now cut off from all railroad facilities.

The West and East railroad, from Lexington, Miss., to Durant, on the C., St. L. & N. O. R. R., is now under contract, and will be completed early next spring, thus affording railroad transportation for the fine lands in western and center portions of Holmes county, Miss.

The Woodville and Bayou Sara railroad affords transportation for a large portion of Wilkinson county to the Mississippi river, at Bayou Sara, La. This road, if extended to some point on the C., St L. & N. O. R. R., would open up a fine farming and well timbered section of our State.

The Mobile and Northwestern railroad, now completed from Glendale, Coahoma county, opposite Helena, Arkansas, to Clarksdale, Coahoma county, gives transportation to some of the finest alluvial cotton lands in the State.

With all the railroad facilities now in existence and with those contemplated, our State will be crossed and re-crossed by railways, which must in a few years add greatly to the development of her vast resources.

INDIVIDUAL EFFORTS.

For the purpose of making our State better known abroad, your Commissioner accepted the invitation of the National Cotton Planters' Association to address that Association at Memphis, Tennessee, on the 25th day of May, 1881. This short address, containing facts and figures in reference to the advantages and resources of Mississippi, taken from the United States Census and information from other sources, was kindly published in the Planters' Journal as well as in many of the leading papers at the North and West.

For the same reason as stated above, I accepted the position of Vice President of the International Cotton Exposition at Atlanta, Georgia, and if my department had been supplied with means, I would have placed on exhibition at the Exposition a creditable display of the crops, fruits, woods, minerals and manufactured articles of our State. I had to content myself by sending out circulars and writing to factories and many individuals to send on articles for exhibition. The Mississippi Cotton Mills and some other factories responded, as also did the Messrs. Worthington, of Washington county, B. F. Jones, of Montgomery county, and a few others, who sent fine specimens of woods of various kinds and manufactured productions. But this display was nothing in comparison with the exhibits from Texas, Arkansas, Kansas, Tennessee, Kentucky, Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, Alabama and Florida. In the five days I was enabled to remain at the Exposition, I distributed a large number of pamphlets, papers, etc., to visitors from the North, West and Europe, and endeavored to set forth the advantages of our State, agriculturally, and for the manufacture of cotton. These individual efforts I made at my own expense, paying the bills out of my small salary. I think and hope they have done great good, and will help to induce immigration and capital to our State.

In addition to the above, whenever the opportunity was offered, I have written articles for publication in papers in the Northern and Western States, and I now publicly thank The North and South, published at Buffalo, N. Y., The South, at New York

city, The Chicago Times, Hungerford's Real Estate Journal, at Stevens Point, Wisconsin, and The St. Louis Republican, for courtesies extended. It will thus be seen I have used every means in my power to disseminate information as to our State.

WHAT ARKANSAS IS DOING IN IMMIGRATION.

Under this heading I quote from the special correspondent of The Clarion, of Dec. 14th, 1881 :

"The first thing that attracts the notice of a person coming from the older States to Arkansas, is the immense tide of immigration that is pouring into the State, not only from every part of the Union, but from many countries in Europe. The leading factors in this work are the St. Louis and Iron Mountain Railroad Company and the Memphis, Little Rock and Fort Smith Railroad Company, each having large land grants, and have land and immigration departments. They publish beautifully colored maps of Arkansas, showing their lands for sale, handsomely printed pamphlets and circulars, and full of lithographic cuts and sketches, not only in the English language, but in several foreign languages, to send to the different countries in Europe. These are scattered broadcast by traveling agents and other means, in every railway town or city, commercial places, and in the rural districts of America and Europe, until there is scarcely a town or neighborhood where the name and resources of Arkansas are not known. The result of this is seen in the immense tide of immigration, accompanied by the wonderful development of the farming, manufacturing, mechanical, mining and educational interests of the State. Mississippi might profit largely by this example and do similar work, by adequate appropriations and support for the State immigration department."

Your Commissioner has embraced in this report the methods to induce immigration in operation in other States, and has given an extended view of the vast resources and advantages of our own State, for the purpose of laying the whole subject before the incoming Legislature, with the hope that whoever may be the next Commissioner he will not be placed in the trying position of the present incumbent, without the means to carry on a proper system of immigration.

CONCLUSION.

Mississippi is now blessed with a good and stable State government, low taxes and almost no State debt. The laws are tempered with justice and rigidly enforced. Public confidence exists among all classes, good feeling dwells everywhere, and capital, so jealous and conservative, is finding its way into our State. All that is now required is action, united action, on the

part of our land owners, our press, and our public men, to secure a large and reliable increase in our population.

With the highest regard and esteem,

I remain, your obedient servant,

E. G. WALL,

Commissioner.

STATEMENT OF ACCOUNT.

By E. G. WALL, Treasurer of Board of Immigration and Agriculture.

EXPENDITURES.

Amount paid salary of Commissioner, 1880.....	\$1,000 00
Amount paid salary of Commissioner, 1881.....	1,000 00
Amount paid out for postage, expressage and office expenses, as per vouchers in this office.....	185 49
Total expenditures for 1880 and 1881.....	\$2,185 49

RECEIPTS.

Amount of Appropriation for 1880.....	\$1,000 00
Amount of Appropriation for 1881... ..	1,000 00
Balance in hands of Treasurer January 1, 1880.....	73 17
Total receipts.....	\$2,073 17-\$2,073 17
Balance due E. G. Wall, Treasurer.....	\$ 112 32

Respectfully submitted,
E. G. WALL, Treasurer.